



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

HARRIET BERNICK

Telephone: (602) 514-7736

Pager: (602) 356-0004

BULLHEAD CITY GUN DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO SIX FELONIES AND AGREES TO RELINQUISH OWNERSHIP OF OVER 100 GUNS TO ATF

PHOENIX, ARIZONA – Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Lester D. Martz, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), announced that on March 29, 2004, **ROBERT FRANKLIN ABRAHAM**, D.O.B. 11/1/54, of Bullhead City, Arizona, former manager of Mohave Firearms, a federally licensed firearms dealer located in Bullhead City, Arizona, plead guilty on March 29, 2004, to the following six felony offenses: Willful Failure to Properly Maintain a Licensed Firearms Dealer's Records (four counts); Possession of an Unregistered Silencer (one count) and Possession of an Unregistered Short-Barreled Rifle (one count) before District Frederick J. Martone in Phoenix, Arizona.

The factual basis of Abraham's plea agreement states the following. On November 7, 8 and 29, 2001 and May 31, 2002, Abraham, while operating Mohave Firearms, a federally licensed firearms dealer located at 1988 Highway 95, No. 2, Bullhead City, Arizona, 86442, willfully sold a handgun on each date to an ATF undercover agent without noting in the dealer's acquisition and disposition records, records required to be kept under federal law, the name, age and address of the purchaser of the each firearm. During the period

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of November 29, 2001 through December 19, 2001, Abraham knowingly possessed a firearm silencer, bearing no manufacturer's markings and no serial number, which was not registered to him. On January 17, 2002, Abraham knowingly possessed a short barreled rifle, a Ruger, Model 10-22, .22 caliber rifle with a barrel length of approximately 13.5, inches, which was not registered to him.

Additionally, on July 8, 2003, Abraham possessed 18 firearms in his Bullhead City home, 78 firearms in his gun store (including an unregistered Thompson machinegun) and 12 firearms at an off-site location (including an unregistered M-16 machinegun) which was controlled by a co-defendant. All of these firearms were also not properly recorded in Mohave Firearms' acquisition and disposition records as required by federal law. Abraham has agreed to relinquish ownership of all of these firearms to ATF as of the date of his sentencing. During Abraham's plea proceeding, the government noted these firearms are currently in the possession of ATF and that Mohave Firearms ceased operations after the execution of a federal search warrant by ATF on July 8, 2003.

This prosecution is the latest success for the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods' firearms enforcement program and ATF's Operation Riverside. "The investigation and prosecution of large scale illegal firearms traffickers is a top priority of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods," stated United States Attorney Paul K. Charlton.

Each conviction for Willful Failure to Properly Maintain a Licensed Firearms Dealer's Records, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(b)(5) & 924(a)(1)(D), carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000.00 fine, or both. Convictions for Possession of an Unregistered Silencer and Possession of an Unregistered Short Barreled Rifle, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5861(d) and 5871, each carry a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$10,000.00 fine, or both.

Sentencing for Abraham is set before Judge Martone on Tuesday, July 8, 2004, at 4:00 p.m.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

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Explosives.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-385-PCT-FJM

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